



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

now existing among well-informed men in the medical profession were actually applied in a reasonable way and to a reasonable extent." He attempts, moreover, a rough estimate of the annual economic loss from preventable deaths and preventable illness, placing the former at a minimum of \$1,000,000,000, and the latter at a minimum of \$500,000,000. The estimate of the mortality loss involves among other things the capitalization of discounted probable future earnings (including the "earnings" of housewives). One may easily concede to Professor Fisher the value of putting the facts in such a way that they will appeal forcibly to men who are accustomed to measure things in money values, and may yet entertain grave doubts of the theoretical validity of estimates of this kind. Even if, in accordance with Professor Fisher's well known views, we are willing to impute a capital value to personal earnings, we may hesitate to admit the *additive quality* of such capital values. And who sustain these money losses?—the men who do not live to get the incomes they might have earned?—or a mercantilistically conceived "nation"? At any rate, why not capitalize probable expenditures as well as probable earnings and thus show that if excessive mortality diminishes the national "assets it also diminishes the national liabilities?" On the whole, one may be glad that Professor Fisher admits that "the real wastes can be only expressed in terms of human misery."

Minor errors noted by the reviewer are few. Census statistics of the size of "families" are quoted as statistics of fecundity (page 54). The monograph is provided with an "Abstract," a very full "Summary" and a good index.

ALLYN A. YOUNG.

Stanford University.

Die Übervölkerung Deutschlands und ihre Bekämpfung. By FERDINAND GOLDSTEIN. (Munich: Ernst Reinhardt, 1909. Pp. 128. 2.50 m.)

In the September, 1909, issue of this magazine was a review of Plauzoles' *La maternité et la défense nationale contre la dépopulation*. In this book was developed a proposition to increase the birth-rate of France. The position of Germany with its rapidly

increasing population was frankly envied. Yet, in this work by Dr. Goldstein we are told that overpopulation is the greatest danger which confronts Germany. The reason for this apparent anomaly is not hard to find, since the author is opposed to the present German militaristic régime which demands soldiers, and the army offers a career to thousands who might otherwise be troubled to find a place in the social system.

The argument of the book may be briefly stated as follows: In any of the thickly settled European countries it is impossible for the rural districts to furnish employment for additional workers. During the past half century the number of agricultural laborers has remained practically constant. Yet the rural birth-rate is considerably higher than the death-rate. In the middle ages a considerable proportion of the births was removed by the high mortality, while countless thousands perished in the crusades or became robbers or beggars. Later, America received the surplus; while, at present, it turns to the cities, where it degenerates. Up to this point there is little original in the book. It has often been said before, and sometimes better.

But how shall it be remedied? Assuredly by stopping the rural exodus. How shall this be accomplished? In the first place abortion shall be legalized. For the change in law and sentiment upon this point from the days of Greece and Rome the teaching of the church is blamed. This ecclesiastical doctrine was welcomed and made into a law by a militaristic state. The prohibition of abortion must be the first point of attack. To prohibit or make marriage more difficult will never do, as this will lead to an increase of illegitimacy. Whether this freedom is to be granted to all prospective mothers we are not told. There are certainly evils which result at times from too many children in a family, and there is untold misery in the lot of the unmarried mothers in a community, but to grant freedom of this kind would expose society to the evils of a destructive influence which it is impossible to estimate.

The second part of the plan contemplates the formation of co-operative productive associations in the rural districts. Since in Europe industry seems to offer greater opportunities for growth than agriculture, let this growth, at least in part, take place in the rural districts. The scheme is carefully worked out-on paper, and seems to offer no escape from success. But these schemes have been

planned scores of times already, only to end dismally when put to the test, and there seems to be no new success-assuring element in this one.

Overpopulation may become some day an evil in Germany so grave that it will require stern measures to combat it; but it is quite possible that when this time comes the solution will be found neither in the legalization of abortion, nor in the formation of rural societies for productive coöperation.

WILLIAM B. BAILEY.

Yale University.

Société de Statistique de Paris. La Société de Statistique. Notes sur Paris. A l'occasion du Cinquantenaire de la Société et de la XIIe session de l'Institut international de Statistique. (Nancy: Imprimerie Berger-Levrault et Cie, 1909).

This memorial volume was published to serve a double purpose; for the meeting of the Institut international de Statistique and the fiftieth anniversary of the Société de Statistique de Paris were celebrated at the same time in Paris. As was natural the occasion was taken to review the history of statistics in France. The first fifty pages of the volume are devoted to a study by Fernand Faure of *Les Précurseurs*. In this section mention is made of those who have written upon the use and method of statistics, but not of those who have simply used statistics in their writings. M. Faure covers the period from the latter part of the sixteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century. This chapter should be read by any one who is interested in the history of statistics, for it contains a fund of information. M. Faure traces the beginning of the study of statistics in France to the interest which was felt by many in the political institutions of Greece and Rome, and the possible desire to revive the Roman censuses. Then, too, at that time, there was much disorder in the finances of the empire, and the search was made for the means to reduce them to order. The author is careful to see that France gets her proper share of the credit for this pioneer work. It is perhaps true that in too many cases Germany is credited with the development of political arithmetic, and England with that of the application of the theory of probabilities to vital statistics.

A short review of the history of the Society and some of its most